



# HOSPITAL THREE YEARS OLD TODAY

## NOW LARGEST NAVAL HOSPITAL WITH CAPACITY FOR 5000 MEN

The St. Albans Naval Hospital celebrates today, the third anniversary of its formal commissioning 15 February 1943. Rising to nationwide fame, St. Albans has become the largest Naval Hospital, having a capacity of 5,000 patients.

Originally a permanent 1,000-bed hospital serving the Third Naval District was planned. Construction was begun on the site of the 117 acre St. Albans Golf Club, but the outbreak of the war changed the plans and a temporary structure was built, completed at record speed on 15 February 1942. The first meal was served on 16 February of that year and Chief Steward Thomas remarked

that the "mess hall was crowded with all of thirty-five people." The hospital at that time was more or less an annex of Brooklyn Naval Hospital, since many supplies were received from there. It wasn't until one year later that St. Albans was officially commissioned a Naval Hospital by Capt. Hayden, District Medical Officer. The personnel at that time consisted of 73 Officers, 71 Nurses, 317 Hospital Corps, 235 Civilians, and 800 patients, who were under the command of Capt. Lester L. Pratt (MC) USN. Capt. Benjamin H. Adams was Executive Officer, and Lt. Comdr. Anna G. Keating was Principal Chief Nurse.

From an arrangement of 42 wards caring for 1500 patients, the hospital grew into an enormous but efficient network forming 76 wing-units around a main corridor slightly longer than one mile. Fifty-six of the wings are used for general medical and surgical wards, 9 for sick officers' quarters, 7 for neuro-surgery, and the remaining units for surgery, laboratory, physiotherapy, X-ray departments and a brig. Surrounding this area are the various buildings used to house personnel, the laundry, greenhouse, carpenter shop, firehouse, and other activities.

This expansion, naturally, took place gradually. Of noteworthy importance was the dedication in June, 1944, of the non-sectarian chapel with a seating capacity of

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## NEWS Completes 3 Years' Service

Today not only marks the beginning of the fourth year of operation for our hospital, but also ends another year of "getting the NEWS on the street."

Way back in February 1943, two members of the Chaplain staff got together and turned out a one-page edition of the then unnamed NEWS. To be sure, the NEWS was really new, for it was published three days before St. Albans was officially commissioned. The paper started as one page of mimeographed copy, but like the hospital it grew and grew until today you have the present four pages of letter-pressed, gloss paper. Our first editor was Frank Cason PhM3c, but due to the oft changing staff, the editors began to come and go with each edition. Cliff Miller Sp(W)3c seemed to be able to hang on to the position until the paper was out of its swaddling clothes and well on its way to becoming one of the finest station newspapers.

With the increasing of personnel and patients at the hospital, it was unanimously decided to enlarge the paper and to better

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**Capt. E. D. McMorries**  
Commanding Officer

"Heartiest congratulations to the members of the staff and loyal civilians for your splendid services," said Captain E. D. McMorries, Commanding Officer, upon the celebration of St. Albans' third anniversary. "Even though actual fighting has ceased, the fight for body repair and restoration to health continues." He also added, "that by your untiring efforts and devotion to duty, the St. Albans Naval Hospital has achieved a high place in the regard of other medical institutions."

Succeeding Capt. L. L. Pratt (MC) USN in July 1945, Capt. McMorries became the second Commanding Officer of this station. Under his guidance, the hospital activities continued in the typical fashion of a smooth running organization.

With almost thirty years service in the Navy, he saw action in the last war and had extensive duty tours prior to this war, one of which was serving as Executive Officer under Rear Admiral Reed at Charleston Naval Hospital.

Besides his position as a Naval Doctor, Capt. McMorries' outside interests lie in athletics, hunting and fishing.



**Capt. C. F. Behrens**  
Executive Officer

"The accomplishments of the St. Albans Naval Hospital during its three years existence is a tribute to the progress of naval medicine," remarked Captain C. F. Behrens, Executive Officer, upon the anniversary occasion of the hospital's commissioning. "I also wish to thank all hands for their wonderful cooperation in making this progress possible."

Capt. C. F. Behrens (MC) USN became the third Executive Officer of St. Albans when he replaced Capt. W. P. Blake last July. Since that time, he has capably assisted the Medical Officer in Command in carrying out the duties required by a hospital of this size.

Entering the Navy in 1920, he has served in numerous capacities and places. Before arriving at this station, he was attached to the National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, Maryland. There he was Chief of X-ray and also in charge of the X-ray Technician's School. He had served six years at Bethesda training Radiologists and Technicians, a work of great importance to both that hospital and the Navy.

He is a Diplomate of the American Board of Internal Medicine and Board of Radiology.



## STAFF

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E. D. McMorries, CAPTAIN (MC) USN

*Commanding Officer*

C. F. Behrens, CAPTAIN (MC) USN

*Executive Officer*

### ADVISERS

Chaplain R. E. Miller

Lt. W. W. Wright

Lt. S. Czuba

H. M. Simon PhM2c, *Editor*

J. R. Snaman PhM3c, *Associate Editor*

The ST. ALBANS HOSPITAL NEWS receives Camp Newspaper Service and Ships' Editorial Association material.

## Anniversary For St. Albans

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300, considered by leading architects to be one of the most beautiful and efficient modern chapels. Other additions were a comfortable and spacious Library with well over 10,000 volumes for the use of all hands, and, just across the corridor, the Occupational Therapy Department, which became a popular place to fill in spare hours developing hobbies and skills as well as provide therapeutic treatment. The Welfare and Recreation Department was organized to bring the latest stage and screen shows, dances, and to guide the athletic program. Educational Services began an extensive program enabling patients to continue studies, learn new trades, and to prepare for civilian occupations.

The American Red Cross has expanded with the hospital into an impressive staff of social service and recreation personnel. Aably assisted by the Gray Ladies, they provide a wide variety of services which contribute much to the morale of both patients and staff. Closely allied with them in the interest of morale are the chaplains, who have increased from a staff of two to a staff of nine.

With this expansion and these many improvements, St. Albans has become an ultra modern Naval Hospital. The skill of famous physicians and surgeons is available for every type of casualty. New methods and techniques were devised and the most recent medical knowledge applied to restore patients to health quickly

and completely. An example of progress in medicine, St. Albans is proud of its achievements.

Within the past year more changes and additions have been made, adding to the efficiency of the hospital and to the comfort of patients and staff. An attractive sunlit reading room has been added to the library; the admission room has been enlarged and improved to expedite the care of incoming patients; and, to assist in personal savings, banking facilities were made available when a branch office of the Springfield Gardens National Bank opened an office near Ship's Service. More opportunities were provided for patients when Educational Services completed an elaborate workshop in the basement under Chow Hall No. 2. Containing machinery and equipment of all types, almost every trade is represented in this shop where patients can refresh and improve their skill or learn a new one. A Remedial Swimming Program was begun at the Jewish Center in Jamaica for the treatment of certain illnesses, supplementing the Rehabilitation Program. In order to localize certain departments and offices and at the same time provide more facilities for recreation and physical rehabilitation, a two story building was put under construction. This will be a permanent structure, known as the Welfare Building, with office space, a swimming pool, gym, and an auditorium.

No account of St. Albans would be complete without a description of the Beach Club, established by the Army and Navy Citizens Committee near Atlantic



Beach. There, patients have an opportunity to swim, lie in the sun, or enjoy other recreation during the summer months. Members of the staff were also able to take advantage of the services. This winter, a new program for patients only has been provided. The Committee has converted the large summer dining hall of the Nautilus Hotel into a "Winter Beach Club." It is becoming increasingly popular among those fortunate enough to rate a visit there.

St. Albans, in a few short years, has gained a high respect from all those aware of its part in the war, saving lives and restoring health.

### ARTISTS — ATTENTION

In the Art Contest sponsored by the Welfare Department for the Ship's Library, contestants will be permitted to submit a small scale painting, providing all details and colors are shown. After the awards are determined, the winners will be expected to complete the enlarged painting before the prizes are received.

The Library will display all entries at an announced date.

### ANNOUNCING

Here is a golden opportunity for all men who need credits in basic subjects for any year High School. You can complete a full year's work between now and the 18th of June. Jamaica Evening High School is offering accelerated courses in all basic High School subjects. Classes are from 1900 to 2200 every evening except Saturday and Sunday. If enough men are interested, transportation will be furnished from the hospital to the school. Act immediately! See you Educational Services Officer in Ward 43 for further details.

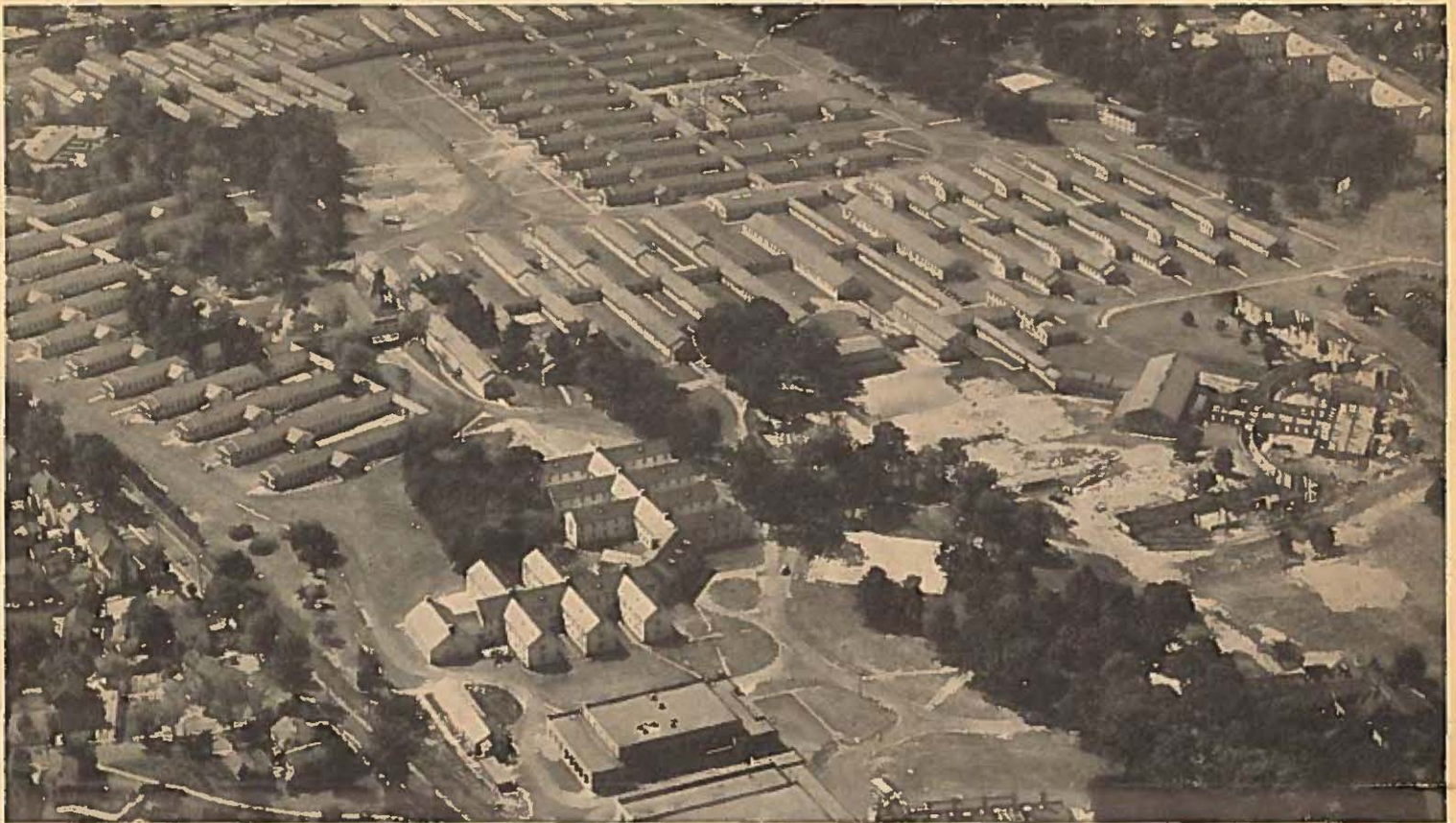
A new class in Radio Theory and Practice is starting in the Educational Services Shop; for Beginners, for Tinkerers and for Experts. Courses are tailored to fit both your abilities and the length of your stay at St. Albans. Individual instruction is offered to any one who needs it. Enroll now.

WAVE: "I'll stand on my head or bust."

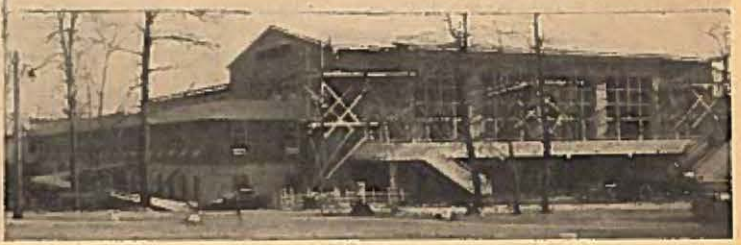
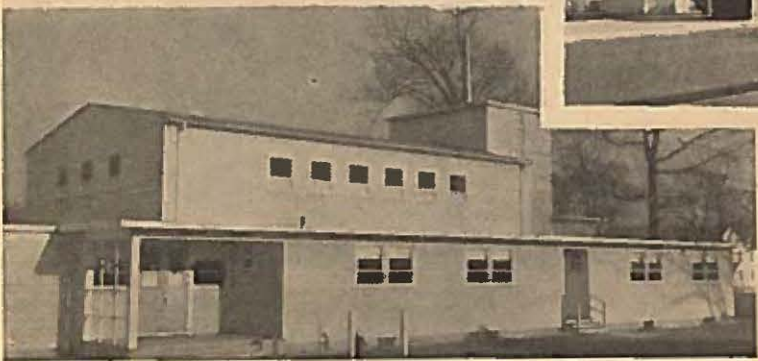
Physical Instructor: "Just stand on your head. We don't expect too much."



# St. Albans Caught By The Camera



*This air-view photograph was taken looking South. The Main Gate (not shown) is to the extreme right. Laundry, Firehouse and Corpsmen's Quarters appear in the foreground. The foundation work at right is to be the site of the permanent hospital.*



*Top left: Sodas, Cigarettes, and Chawklat Bars . . . "Hurray Chapel". Top right: "Times Square" . . . Where do we go from here? up, get in line!" Lower left: Every Sunday Morning . . . "Our Lower right: "Come on in, the water's fine" . . . soon to be echoed from the Rec Building. Inset: "Through These Portals Pass . . ."*



# Progress Of The News



Pictured above is the 3 stages in the development of the ST. ALBANS NEWS. At left is the Mimeographed edition; right the 2nd publication by the Multilith process. The ultimate is shown in the enlarged letter-pressed issue, center.

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the means of reproduction. Volume 2 was the first NEWS to roll off the new Multi-lith press which was presented to us by the students of Woodrow Wilson High School. Now we were really in business. We were able to print pictures and cartoons, impossible under the old Mimeographing system. The ST. ALBANS NEWS really stepped out with an eight page paper featuring columns from the Waves and Corpsmen, plenty of pictures, and lots, lots more news.

Many events of nationwide interest gained the front page of our paper. The biggest story ever run by the NEWS was the coming of peace to a war torn world. Our front page covered all the big entertainers that came to the hospital to help cheer the patients. There were Glenn Miller, Jimmy Durante, Eddie Cantor, Hildegard, Harry James, Shirley Temple and just "millions" more. There were many, many stage plays and radio shows — the NEWS covered them all.

The new year, 1946, not only brought forth a year of peace, but also a bigger and better ST. ALBANS NEWS. Our first issue of the present letter-pressed paper, was "put on the street" in January. It is hoped we will be able to bring you all, even more news of hospital events than we did with the Multi-lith editions.

The NEWS office is located under the Officer of the Day's desk. Any contributions or suggestions you might have, bring to the office and tell us about it.

## Library Notes

Language has been a necessary development of man to establish human communication which, in turn, best manifests itself as a force for world understanding. "THE LOOM OF LANGUAGE" by Bodmer should be read as an introduction to the whole field, for it gives a history of language and the hybrid heritage of our own English language. H. L. Mencken's "AMERICAN LANGUAGE" is a scholarly but readable history and discussion of Americanisms with a brief survey of foreign dialects in the United States. "THE TYRANNY OF WORDS" by Stuart Chase and "LANGUAGE IN ACTION" by Hayakawa are excellent guides to accurate thinking, speaking and writing; since both authors challenge the use of words in self-expression. "LEARNING BASIC ENGLISH" by Richards may be used as an elementary approach or as a review in the study of English. Anderson's "GUIDE TO GOOD PRONUNCIATION" offers a helpful vocabulary and correct pronunciation which contribute to effective speech; and Brubacher's "HIGH SCHOOL COMPOSITION AND GRAMMAR" (or any such book) will aid the individual both in correct speech and writing.

If one masters language, he may then turn his attention to creative thought in speaking and writing. For these interests the Library offers books on public speaking, authorship in fields of drama, radio, fiction and non-fiction.



The Commissary "Bums" swept through the first half of the Interdepartmental Basketball League competition taking first place. Their record of 8 wins and 1 defeat put the 2½ games ahead of the second place "Rams" and "O.R. Scrubs." Both of these teams have a record of 5 wins and 1 defeat.

The second half of the league begins 19 February and will continue for 7 weeks. The winning team of the second half plays the winning team of the first half for the Bowling League Championship. As the second half ends the standing of the teams are:

Team	W	L	Pct.
Bums .....	8	1	.888
Rams .....	5	3	.625
O.R. Scrubs .....	5	3	.625
Giants .....	4	3	.571
Medicos .....	5	4	.555
MAA .....	5	5	.500
Lanks .....	5	5	.500
Wildcats .....	4	4	.500
Eagles .....	1	5	.166
Lions .....	0	8	.000

## WAVE BASKETBALL

Last Thursday night at Andrew Jackson High School the Waves defeated the Spars, 18 to 10. It was a hard fought battle in which our Wave team was able to show its true form.

Varsity Basketball Monday at 1930—St. Albans vs. Brooklyn Armguard Center.

## Auditorium Schedule

- Fri., 15 Feb. 1900: Patients' Valentine Dance.
- Sat., 16 Feb. 1900: Movie: "Cinderella Jones" with Joan Leslie and Robert Alba.
- Sun., 17 Feb. 1900: Movie: "Jesse James" with Tyrone Power and Nancy Kelly.
- Mon., 18 Feb. 1730-1930: Movie: "My Reputation" with Barbara Stanwyck and George Brent.
- Tues., 19 Feb. 1730-1930: Movie: "Masquerade in Mexico" with Dorothy Lamour.
- Wed., 20 Feb. 1900: Movie: "Scotland Yard Investigators" with Sir Aubrey Smith and Erich von Stroheim.
- Thurs., 21 Feb. 1900: USO Unit No. 16, "Fancy That."

## Entries Wanted For Coming Sports Events

Those of you with athletic ability, both station personnel and patients, are urged to participate in two meets sponsored by the Third Naval District during the month of March.

A swimming meet to be held Monday, 15 March, will involve 8 events: 50 yd. free style, 50 yd. back stroke, 100 yd. free style, 150 yd. medley relay, fancy diving, 200 yd. free style, 50 yd. breast stroke, and 200 yd. free style relay.

On March 22, a Spring Field Day will offer the opportunity for Inter-station competition. Events contested will be foul shooting, spot shooting, standing broad jump, hop, step, and jump, rope climbing, 40 yd. dash, and potato relay race.

All personnel interested in competing in either meet are asked to contact Lt. Eberman in Welfare and Recreation, Ward 43. Arrangements for swimming practice will be made.

## Divine Services

### In The Chapel

#### CATHOLIC

- Masses
- Sunday: 0645 — 0830 — 1155
- Daily: 1155 and 1630
- Saturday Confessions: 1100 — 1200
- 1300 — 1400 — 1520 — 1630. Before All Masses. Other Times Upon Request.
- Tuesday: Miraculous Medal Novena Devotions after both Masses. Blessed Sacrament Meditation Chapel Open At All Times.

#### JEWISH

- Sabbath Services
- Friday: 1500 to 1600
- Vesper Services: 1800
- PROTESTANT
- Sunday Services: 1000
- Vesper Services: 1800
- Friday 1800: Christian Servicemen's League
- Communion Services: 1st Sunday Every Month: 1000. Also Every Sunday: 0830 (Protestant Chapel). Private Communion Upon Request. Special Services